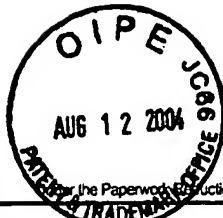


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/024,221-Conf. #2150		
		Filing Date	October 30, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson		
		Art Unit	3731		
		Examiner Name	K. T. Truong		
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
✓	AA	US 2001/0012942	08-09-2001	BRADLEY T. ESTES	
	AB	US 2001/0027320	10-04-2001	RICK SASSO	
	AC	US 2002/0011135	01-31-2002	WAYNE HALL	
	AD	US 2002/0016592	02-07-2002	CHARLES L. BRANCH	
	AE	US 2002/0022764	02-21-2002	MAURICE M. SMITH	
	AF	US 2002/0049368	04-25-2002	STEPHEN RITLAND	
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	AH	US 2002/0077632	06-20-2002	PAUL M. TSOU	
	AI	US 2002/0088695	06-27-2002	CARSTEN NEUMANN	
	AJ	US 2002/0143235	10-03-2002	JAMES J. PAGLIUCA	
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	AL	US-2003/0220689	11-27-2003	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AM	US-2003/0236447	12-25-2003	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AN	US-2004/0106997	06-03-2004	ROBERT E. LIEBERSON	
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	AP	US-569,839	10-20-1896	J. T. R. ROELOFFS	
	AQ	US-3,470,872	10-07-1969	H. R. GRIESHABER	
	AR	US-3,875,595	04-08-1975	EDWARD C. FRONING	
	AS	US-4,232,660	11-11-1980	ROBERT L. COLES	
	AT	US-4,440,168	04-03-1984	MARK G. WARREN	
	AU	US-4,481,947	11-13-1984	MARTIN H. CHESTER	
	AV	US-4,545,374	10-08-1985	ROBERT E. JACOBSON	
	AW	US-4,573,448	03-04-1986	PARVIZ KAMBIN	
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	AY	US-4,620,460	11-04-1986	FRANK GONZALES, JR.	
	AZ	US-4,686,972	08-18-1987	KENNETH Z. KURLAND	
	BA	US-4,736,738	04-12-1988	MAIEJ LIPOVSEK	
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	BC	US-4,798,111	01-17-1989	CHARLES D. CHEESEMAN	
	BD	US-4,803,976	02-14-1989	ROBERT FRIGG	
	BE	US-4,817,587	04-04-1989	WOODROW W. JANESE	
	BF	US-4,862,891	09-05-1989	STEVEN M. SMITH	
	BG	US-4,882,958	11-28-1989	RICHARD L. MCNEELY	
	BH	US-5,035,232	07-30-1991	THEODOR LUTZE	
	BI	US-5,048,379	09-17-1991	ROBERT E. GRAMERA	
	BJ	US-5,052,373	10-01-1991	GARY K. MICHELSON	
	BK	US-5,084,043	01-28-1992	PETER S. HERTZMANN	
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	BO	US-5,148,724	09-22-1992	GARY R. REXFORD	
	BP	US-5,158,543	10-27-1992	HARRISON M. LAZARUS	
	BQ	US-5,195,541	03-23-1993	THEODORE G. OBENCHAIN	
	BR	US-5,275,611	01-04-1994	ROBERT S. BEHL	
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Examiner Signature	K. T. TRUONG			Date Considered	12/10/04



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		Filing Date	October 30, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson		
		Art Unit	3731		
		Examiner Name	K. T. Truong		
Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)

✓	BU	US-5,303,694	04-19-1994	W. E. MICHAEL MIKHAIL	
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	BW	US-5,356,413	10-18-1994	HAROLD M. MARTINS	
	BX	US-5,363,841	11-15-1994	WESLEY L. COKER	
	BY	US-5,431,651	06-11-1995	E. MARLOWE GOBLE	
	BZ	US-5,439,464	08-08-1995	DAVID E. SHAPIRO	
	CA	US-5,512,038	04-30-1996	DARRELL D. O'NEAL	
	CB	US-5,601,550	02-11-1997	RENE D. ESSER	
	CC	US-5,687,739	11-18-1997	WILLIAM E. MCPHERSON	
	CD	US-5,716,415	02-10-1998	ARTHUR D. STEFFEE	
	CE	US-5,743,853	04-28-1998	ROBERT A. LAUDERDALE	
	CF	US-5,746,720	05-05-1998	ALBERT E. STODDER, JR	
	CG	US-5,766,221	06-16-1998	THEODORE V. BENDEREV	
	CH	US-5,792,044	08-11-1998	KEVIN THOMAS FOLEY	
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	CK	US-5,882,344	03-16-1999	ALBERT E. STODDER, JR.	
	CL	US-5,885,300	03-23-1999	YASUAKI TOKUHASHI	
	CM	US-5,891,147	04-06-1999	PETER A. MOSKOVITZ	
	CN	US-5,895,352	04-20-1999	JEFFREY B. KLEINER	
	CO	US-5,895,390	04-20-1999	MICHAEL C. MORAN	
	CP	US-5,897,593	04-27-1999	DOUGLAS W. KOHRS	
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	CT	US-5,928,139	07-27-1999	TIBOR B. KOROS	
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	DA	US-5,996,447	12-07-1999	DAVID BAYOUTH	
	DB	US-6,007,487	12-28-1999	KEVIN THOMAS FOLEY	
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	DD	US-6,080,155	06-27-2000	GARY KARLIN MICHELSON	
	DE	US-6,081,741	06-27-2000	J. MARCUS HOLLIS	
	DF	US-6,083,225	07-04-2000	CHARLES J. WINSLOW	
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Examiner Signature	K. T. TRUONG	Date Considered	12/14/02
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				First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
				Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)
Sheet	3	of	4		

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EFOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ² -Number ³ -Kind Code ⁴ (if known)				
<div>h</div>	EV	WO 02/060330 A1		08-08-2002	RITLAND	
<div>h</div>	EW	WO 00/18306 A1		04-06-2000	RITLAND	

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner	Cite	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book).	
Examiner Signature	K. T. Truong		Date Considered 12/10/02



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				Filing Date	October 30, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)

Initials	No. ¹	magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
✓	EX	WOLFHARD CASPAR, <i>Technique of Microsurgery, in MICROSURGERY OF THE LUMBAR SPINE: PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES IN SPINE SURGERY</i> 105-122 (Aspen Publications, 1990)	
	EY	Web page, http://www.brainlab.com , April 2, 2002	
	EZ	KAMBIN, PARVIZ, "Arthroscopic Microdiscectomy: Minimal Intervention in Spinal Surgery", National Library of Medicine, 1991 p 67-100, Urban & Schwarzenberg	
	FA	SCHAFER, JOHNNATHAN et al., "Percutaneous Posterolateral Lumbar Discectomy and decompression with a 6.9 Millimeter Cannula", The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 1991, pp 822-831	
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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Complete if Known

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Filing Date	October 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
Attorney Docket Number	101896-275 (DEP-5240)

Sheet 1 of 1

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
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		US 2003/0083688	05-01-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Sofamor Danek, "MED MicroEndoscopic Discectomy System" (1997)	

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Examiner Signature	K. T. Truong	Date Considered	12/1/04
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